

CHART OF COLLABORATION

Approved by the General Assembly of MAW in June 2024

The chart of collaboration was adopted by the members of the Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands (MAW) in January 2017, and last amended in June 2024.

This document establishes a framework for member participation, emphasizing shared values, governance structure, working relationships, and commitment to the sustainable use of wetlands in the Mediterranean region.

Article 1: Context and Mission

Due to the 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, an alliance agreement dedicated to supporting and mobilizing the civil society towards the sustainable use of wetlands was endorsed in January 2017 by 20 members from 12 countries. Currently, MAW has 29 members from 18 countries. This agreement is complementing the mandate and actions of the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) and the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO).

The mission of the Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands is to increase the capacity of Mediterranean societies to ensure the protection, restoration and sustainable use of wetlands and rivers.



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

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 General Assembly, the Steering Committee (SC) and the Secretariat. The composition and functions of each of these bodies are described in the MAW Terms of Reference.

Article 4: Membership and partnership

Members are sub-national, national or international not-for-profit (NGOs) organizations, associations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and research organizations of various sizes and abilities, having in common a commitment to conservation and sustainable use of Mediterranean wetlands.

4.1 Members should:

- share the objectives of the MAW;
- be active in the conservation of wetlands and their related nature and natural resources, including their scientific, educational, legal, economic, social and political dimensions, at global, regional, national or local levels;
- commit to participate actively in the MAW activities of the annually adopted action plan;

- not pursue objectives or engage in activities that conflict with the objectives or activities of MAW, especially those related to corruption;
- have democratic governance evidenced by an organizational chart with a transparent management and accountability structure;
- treat other Alliance members with respect, maintain a sober and constructive tone in communications and abide by the General Assembly and Steering Committee decisions.

The Alliance is meant to be inclusive, i.e. open to collaborate with other organizations willing to actively contribute to the Alliance's mission . Each member commits to comply with the Terms of Reference and Chart of Collaboration by signing the Membership Form (by the authorized person in relation to the organization's status).

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 cannot be part of the governance bodies, nor take positions on behalf of the Alliance.

4.2 Application process

Applicant organizations must agree with the Alliance's values and are asked to submit a written application via email with name and contact person. The email should include the following documents:

- A letter of motivation for joining the Alliance, explaining how the applicant organization will contribute to the mission of the network, its action plan and chart of collaboration. The letter should be signed by the legal representative with the ability to do so;
- A letter of recommendation from another Alliance member signed by the organization's representative;
- A proof of legal existence of the organization;
- The Membership Form available here - [Version 2024](#).

These documents should be sent to the Secretariat Team to the following email: contact@medallianceforwetlands.org

The membership application process is described below and summarized in figure 1 :

- 1) The secretariat team will send a confirmation to the candidate within 10 working days upon receipt of a complete application.
 - a) The Secretariat informs Alliance Members on the membership application and consultation of national members, if applicable.
- 2) If there are other member(s) from the same country as the applicant, the Secretariat shall contact all national members within 15 days to ask for their position on the application.
 - a) If the national member disagrees with the admission of the applicant, the Steering Committee will meet within 15 days and review the case and decide whether or not to proceed with the application process. If the national member is part of the SC, its presence will be considered as a conflict of interest and it will not be involved in the application review by the SC. If the SC needs more information from the applicant, the Secretariat should contact the organization with the SC's requests. Decision by SC will be by majority vote.
 - b) If the national members approve the admission of the new member, the Secretariat will forward the application to the General Assembly to understand if anyone opposes the admission of the candidate to the network.
- 3) If the application has been approved by the national members and/or the SC the application will be submitted to the General Assembly of the Alliance via email requesting a vote for approval of the candidate organization to join the network. The Alliance members will vote the application within 1 month. In the absence of a response from the members, the Secretariat will consider that endorsement to be implicit and the applicant will be accepted. The acceptance/rejection is by majority.
- 4) If the application has been rejected by the Alliance Members, the SC should validate, checking the criteria list within 15 days and Secretariat should inform the applicant organisation.
- 5) The SC endorses the candidate to join the MAW by majority vote in a meeting or digital vote held within 15 days after the General Assembly' endorsement period ends.
- 6) Applicant organizations will be notified by the Secretariat of the status of their application, whether it has been approved or denied, within 15 working days of the Steering Committee's decision.

7) New members may receive an orientation session and a welcome package that provides information about MAW's mission, activities and resources available.

Membership application process

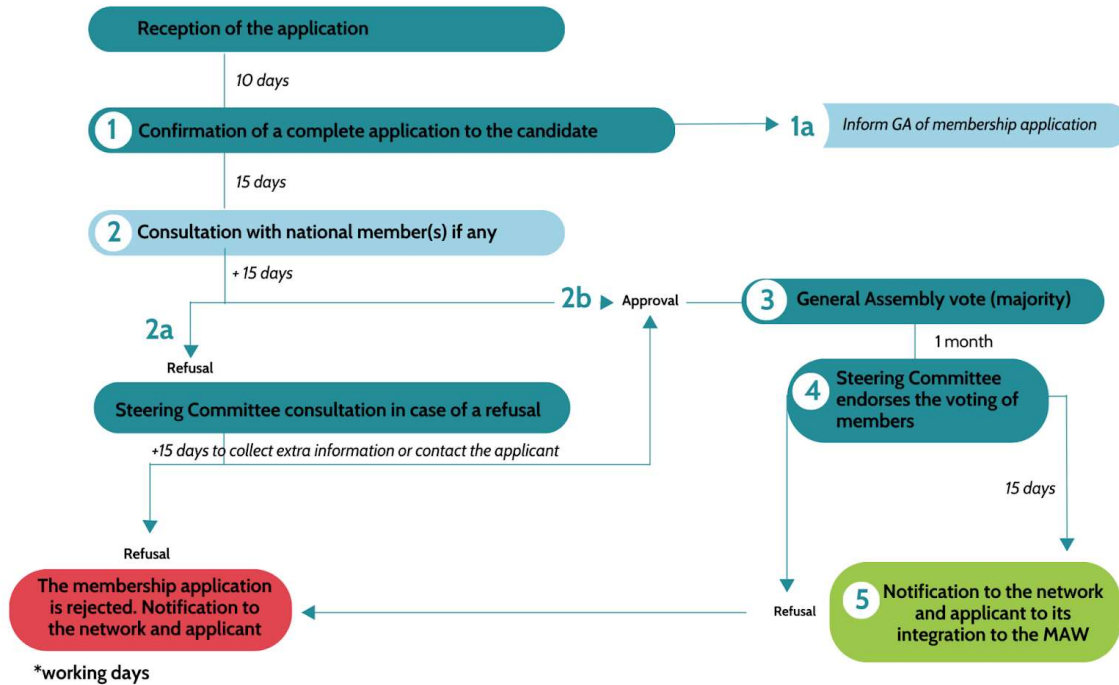


Figure 1. Application process

Article 5: Common general values among members

5.1 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.

5.2 *Good governance*

Members commit to effective governance that ensures acting in accordance with stated ToR, Chart of Collaboration and Annual Plan of the Alliance.

5.3 *Respect*

Members treat others with dignity, courtesy, and respect, regardless of differences in background, opinion, or status. Members value diversity and inclusivity and strive to create an environment where everyone feels safe, valued and heard. If a member reports disrespect from another member, the SC may be asked to evaluate the latter member's conduct.

5.4 *Responsible advocacy*

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

5.5 *Participation*

Alliance members are committed to working in partnership with local communities, NGOs and other organizations who share the same goals. The Alliance commits to the empowerment and inclusive participation of people and organizations in accordance with the Alliance's mission. Members are encouraged to actively participate in MAW activities, contribute to its mission, and engage with other members to maximize impact.

5.6 *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 as described in the Ethical Policy

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

5.7 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.

5.8 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.

5.9 Synergies

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

5.10 Environmental and Social Responsibility

Members are mindful of the impact of their organization's activities on the environment and society. They promote sustainability, integrate cultural perspectives and contribute to the well-being of their communities through responsible practices.

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 from other countries not yet represented, following the application procedure.
- Designate a MAW focal point and representative to the Alliance.
- Collaborate in fundraising is encouraged for all members to achieve success in wetlands conservation and restoration. Fundraising activities that use the MAW logo or refer to activities within the core functions of the MAW must be approved by the Steering Committee members and follow MAW values and ethical fundraising principles.
- Strive to identify opportunities for collaboration and joint fundraising by the members coordinating the Secretariat. Note that the Alliance is not a grant-making facility.

Article 7: Language

English (US) is the language adopted by the Alliance for any internal meetings and communication. However, key Mediterranean languages of 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 members granting the right to 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 under conditions provided by Article 11.

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 Steering Committee (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 a member's serious failure to comply with this Collaboration Chart, the General Assembly may decide to expel that member based on tangible elements. The Secretariat will support this decision-making process with supervision of the SC

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 SC members to seek for a discussion and solution on the matter through informal discussions.

Article 13: Revisions to the Chart of Collaboration

The Chart of Collaboration will be reviewed every commitment period, or when major changes occur, by the SC members.

Table 1. Founding members of the Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands signatories to the Chart of collaboration 2017

Type	Organization	Member representatives	Contact	Logo
International NGO	IUCN Center for Mediterranean Cooperation	Maher Mahjoub	maher.mahjoub@iucn.org	
International NGO	Euronatur	Gabriel Schwaderer	gabriel.schwaderer@euronatur.org	
International NGO	Wetlands International (Europe)	Chris Baker	Chris.Baker@wetlands.org	
International NGO	GWP Med	Vangelis Constantinos	vangelis@gwpmed.org	
International NGO	MedINA	Thymio Papayannis	thymiop@med-ina.org	
International NGO	WWF Mediterranean/ North Africa	Jamel Jrijer	irais@wwfna.org (Imen Rais)	
National NGO	WWF Greece	Thanos Giannakakis	t.giannakakis@wwf.gr	
National NGO	Doğa Derneği / Turkey	Itri Levent Erkol	levent.erkol@dogadernegi.org	
National NGO	Association des Amis des Oiseaux / Tunisie	Hichem Azafzaf	azafzaf@gmail.com	
National NGO	Society for the Protection of Prespa / Grèce	Myrsini Malakou	duria@otenet.gr	













National NGO	Société de Protection de la Nature du Liban	Assad Serhal / Bassima Khatib	aserhal2013@gmail.com	
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Table 1.2 Chart of Collaboration – Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands – Version 0 - 6

National NGO	GREPOM / Maroc	Mohamed Dakki	dakkiis@gmail.com	
National NGO	RSCN / Jordan	Maen Smadi	maen@rscn.org.jo	
National NGO	PIM - Mediterranean Islands Initiative	Mathieu Thevenet	M.THEVENET@conservatoire-du littoral.fr	
Scientific Organizations	IMBE	Wolfgang Cramer	wolfgang.cramer@imbe.e.fr	
Scientific Organizations	CEFE / CNRS	Richard Joffre	Direction@cefe.cnrs.fr	
Scientific Organization	Society of Wetlands Scientists	Jos Verhoeven	j.t.a.verhoeven@uu.nl	
Scientific Organization	University of Annaba	Samraoui Boudjema	bsamraoui@yahoo.fr	

Scientific Organization	Ornithological Research Center / Ondokuz Mayıs University	Kiraz Erciyas Yavuz	erciyaskiraz@yahoo.com	
Scientific Organization	Tour du Valat	Jean Jalbert	jalbert@tourduvalat.org	

Table 1.3 Chart of Collaboration – Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands– Version 1 (2023)

Type	Organization	Member representatives	Contact	Logo
National NGO	AOS - Albanian Ornithological Society	Taulant Bino	taulant.bino@aos-alb.org	
National NGO	BIOM Association	Mate Zec	tomislav.hudina@biom.hr	
International NGO	BirdLife Europe and Central Asia	Sofia Capellan	sofia.capellan@birdlife.org	
National NGO	CZIP/BirdLife	Ksenija Medenica	ksenija.medenica@czip.me	
National NGO	GEOTA - Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento, Território e Ambiente	Maria Isabel Teixeira	geota@geota.pt	

National NGO	INCA - Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania	Nihat Dragoti	ndragoti@gmail.com	
International NGO	MedPAN	Marie Romani	marie.romani@medpan.org	
National NGO	MEDSEA	Vania Statzu	vaniastatzu@medsea-foundation.org	
Regional Initiative	MedWet	Isabelle Perroud	perroud@medwet.org	
Regional Initiative	PAP/RAC	Marko Prem	marko.prem@paprac.org	
National NGO	SPANNA Morocco	Abdeslam BOUCHAFRA	bouchafra@spana.ma	
Regional Initiative	UNEP/MAP Plan Bleu			
Company	Vertigo Lab	Thomas Binet	binet@vertigolab.eu	
National NGO	WWF Spain	Teresa Gil	tgil@wwf.es	