

Coastal Wetlands Governance

Towards a Handbook

Presented by Prof. Michael Scoullos at the

**TRAINING FOR MEDITERRANEAN JOURNALISTS AND
NGOS: RAISING AWARENESS ON MEDITERRANEAN
COASTAL WETLANDS AND NEXUS NATURE-BASED
SOLUTIONS IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

December 16th, Rabat, Morocco, Hôtel Farah Rabat



Coastal Wetlands Governance

Towards a Handbook

'In order to achieve preservation of the coastal and island wetlands of high ecological values in the Mediterranean, a set of supporting actions needs to be delivered, ensuring enabling environment for the sustainable conditions and uses of coastal ecosystems. These are to be done through the mechanisms of the good, effective and equitable governance'. MAVA



The need for governance

Designations and labels alone are not enough to provide protection and sustainable management that these sites need and deserve

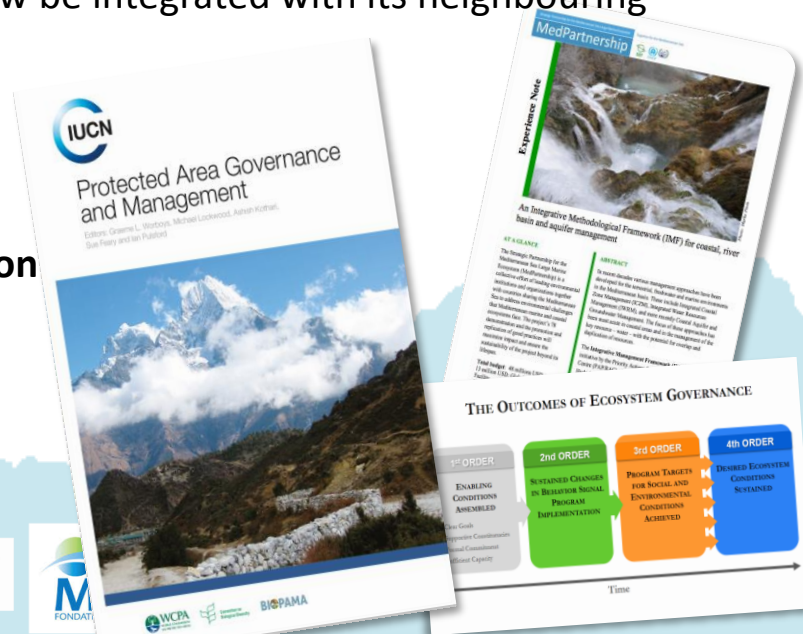
That task falls to a complex mix of national and local politicians, officials, community groups and organisations, NGOs, advocacy groups, volunteers and, not least, increasingly well-educated and demanding citizens

Coastal wetlands have become the focus of intense Mediterranean policy attention

Including, for example land-sea interactions (LSIs) expressed through the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, and others. The management of the coastal wetland must now be integrated with its neighbouring coast, marine waters, and its wider catchment

Increasing democratisation

Now, governance is about inclusiveness, bringing diverse interests and sectors together **to achieve a common vision**



A model for governance?

There is no single model, no 'one-size-fits-all' governance solution - but the basic recipe of bringing people together in a common purpose is universal.

The Handbook will:

- **Condense the cycle of governance into a simple, universally applicable roadmap** - one that allows the user to measure, shape and report progress over time, to build a shared vision, and to plan the way forward
- **Provide a process designed for use both on coastal wetlands with a long history of collaborative governance or by newly designated sites**
- **Be used to test and review existing arrangements or to design new ones**

Rather than oppressive and mechanical, the Handbook's 3 stage governance process is designed to be creative and innovative

- ✓ I. Preparation
- ↗ II. Mapping and Planning
- ★ III. Towards Excellence

Easy to use, and downloadable

The handbook can be used as a **rapid, self-assessment tool to identify your status quo** – using downloadable forms to complete and save

An innovative **'Vitality and Adaptivity Scorecard'** is also provided for those seeking to address and measure more rarified dimensions of governance – vitality and excellence

A **planning tool** to identify actions and next steps, and priorities

RAPID ASSESSMENT GRID

Framework - Institutional design	Red	Orange	Green
Major stakeholders mapped and their interests and influence identified	-	-	-
Governance structure designed and established	-	-	-
The key issues governance will focus on are selected	-	-	-
Governance body constitution, goals and terms of reference agreed	-	-	-
Core support funding secured	-	-	-
Users and the local community understand and support the goals of the site designation	-	-	-
The active engagement of social actors, upholding diversity and gender equity in all aspects of the management of the site	-	-	-
Institutions responsible for the site understand and support its objectives, and collaborate in their delivery	-	-	-
Governance is 'nested' through mutual recognition and representation within the governance structures for the wider catchment or coastal zone	-	-	-
Transboundary and Cross-border only - Enabling policies are in place in relevant jurisdictions to allow for shared governance	-	-	-
Transboundary and Cross-border only - Effective shared governance regimes are in place	-	-	-

Click on box you want to check and use the drop down menu for X

Framework - the preconditions required to successfully implement the plan of action

Institutional design	Red	Orange	Green	Indicators of progress	Barriers to progress	Actions/Next Steps	Priority Score 1-3
Major stakeholders mapped and their interests and influence identified	X			1 Terms of reference for mapping contract 2 Consultant selected 3 Report of Action Plan	1 Funding and staff expertise	1 Issue finding 2 Draft Terms and what to monitor 3 Progress Report	1 2 3
Governance structure designed and established		X		1 Regular meetings of Governance Committee and delivery of management plan	1 No more long term finding of political commitment	2 Progress and agree programme of work	2
The key issues governance will focus on are selected	X			1 Governance Committee programme of work published	1 none	2 Progress and agree to/issue and programme of work	2
Governance body constitution, goals and terms of reference agreed		X		1 Constitution, goals and terms of reference agreed 2 Support secured for sharing agreed with partners	1 Institutional capacity amongst partners 2 Policies in place to support funding to fund core 3 Lack of local authority commitment to match national intention	1 Follow up with all partners to encourage response 2 Progress and present funding case for all partners	1 1
Users and the local community understand and support the goals of the site designation	X			1 Education in consultation 2 Education on sharing activities by users and local communities 3 Increased voluntary activity	1 Traditional and long-held attitudes 2 Conflict of economic interests vs conservation	1 Annual public events programme 2 Book and engage local champions 3 Local information campaign	1 3 1
The active engagement of social actors, upholding diversity and gender equity in all aspects of the management of the site	X			1 Diverse membership of governance committee 2 Diverse engagement at events and consultations	1 Traditional attitudes and conventions 2 Lack of resources	1 Awareness campaigns to address gender and include local champions 2 Review and update aims and facilities	2 1
				1 Institutional support for the support in high and sensitive 2 Political cycles	1 Political cycles	1 Information book and days for support institutions	2

THE VITALITY & ADAPTIVITY SCORECARD

GRESS RATING

ALL VERY LOW	1
VERY LOW	2
LOW	3
MEDIUM	4
HIGH	5
VERY HIGH	6

from menu for score

Progress Rating	Improved	Stable	Adaptive	Creative & Innovative	Responsive & Integrated
governance structure and its membership...	2				
site management staff...					
Are key stakeholders...					
partner institutions...					
management plan for the site...					
TOTAL (maximum 100)	0				

AUTO TOTAL

0-32 **LOW** more work needed

33-63 **MEDIUM** heading in the right direction

64-100 **HIGH** well done! Keep it up

Finally, **Practical Tips** - based on the real-world governance experience - to help users design the way forward for the governance of their wetland