The identification and mapping of wetlands is a cornerstone for their conservation and sustainable management. Inventory maps and data catalogues contribute to a country’s wise spatial planning and accentuate the needs for wetland protection measures and for the monitoring of ecological changes.

Wetland inventories offer opportunities for multidisciplinary collaboration and provide information that can be used at dissemination and public awareness campaigns. In this context, capacity building through training in wetland inventory is considered necessary.

The project is being implemented in the frame of the International Development Cooperation Programme that is financed by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Hellenic International Development Cooperation Department (Hellenic Aid). Its duration is from October 2006 till September 2007.

Beneficiary
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Organisation of the training courses
Two training courses will be organised in total and will be held in Thessaloniki and in Belgrade. They will cover the following:
- Wetland inventory
- Remote sensing
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Databases and the MedWet Web Information System

The training courses will be addressed to scientists of public administration, academic and research institutes and non-governmental organizations that are active in the fields of wetland conservation and management in Serbia.

“Training in Wetland Inventory using Modern Technology” is promoted by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Hellenic Aid with the objective to transfer knowledge to Serbia in wetland inventory.

To this end, the project will build the capacities of Serbian scientists involved in nature conservation in the use of modern technology tools such as remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the MedWet web information system, in line with the MedWet inventory method and the Ramsar Convention inventory framework.

Dissemination and public awareness of the project and its results will be achieved through selected promotional activities, such as the production of a leaflet, web announcements and the organisation of workshops that will take place in Belgrade. The workshops will aim at promoting the objectives of the Pan-Mediterranean wetland inventory that is undertaken by the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative MedWet, and the necessity of Serbia’s participation in this attempt, as a means to support the conservation and sustainable management of its wetland resources.

Expected outputs
- The enhancement of bilateral cooperation, the exchange of experiences and the transfer of know-how in wetland inventory.
- The increase in the level of knowledge and skills regarding wetland inventory techniques of Serbian authorities and scientists.
- The dissemination of the MedWet Inventory method to a wide number of bodies and scientists as a means to support the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands.
- The awareness of pertinent bodies on the benefits of Serbia’s participation in the Pan-Mediterranean wetland inventory that is undertaken by the Mediterranean Initiative MedWet.