



***EU FP7 Project CREAM
Coordinating research in support to application of EAF
(Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management
advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas***

***Deliverable 1.8
Minutes of Coordination Meeting 3***

Start date of project: 01/05/2011

Duration: 36 months

Due date of deliverable: 30/04/2014

Lead partner for deliverable: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza / International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

WP leader: Dunixi Gabiña

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3rd Coordination meeting

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General Assembly

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3rd Coordination Meeting
Institut de Ciències del Mar de Barcelona, CSIC, Spain
8 April 2014

MINUTES

Opening and arrangements of the meeting

The 3rd Coordination Meeting followed the agenda (annex 1) and was attended by 39 participants (annex 2), 35 from the CREAM consortium and four from the international organisations members of the External Advisory Committee (BSC, FAO and GFCM).

The meeting was opened by Dunixi Gabiña (IAMZ/CIHEAM) as Coordinator and Jordi Lleonart (ICM/CSIC) as host and Scientific Coordinator.

Antonio López-Francos acted as rapporteur.

All presentations, making reference to the Agenda items, are available on the Intranet of the CREAM Web site: www.cream-fp7.eu following the path:

Intranet - Meetings - 3rd Coordination Meeting (Barcelona, 8 April 2014)

For accessing the Intranet:

User: partnercream

Password: keypartner

Item 1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Item 2. Approval of the minutes of the 2nd Coordination meeting

The minutes of the 2nd Coordination meeting were approved. They are available on the Intranet at: 5 - Deliverables / Deliverable 1.7 CREAM Minutes of Coordination Meeting 2

Item 3. Report by the Coordinators

This report (presentation on the Intranet) made reference to the following questions:

- Activities and deliverables are on time as scheduled with one exception, D3.4, which is in progress. Pending activities are:
 - o WP4 Workshop, which is organised on the same day (M36)
 - o Organisation of the International Dissemination Conference. 9-10 April 2014 (M36)
- Expenditure of the project. 49% of the personnel budget has been spent during the first reporting period (18 months, half life of the project), and 62% for other expenses before the Coordination Meeting and the International Dissemination Conference of Barcelona. Nevertheless, it is expected that the budget will be totally spent since the most



important expenses for travel and per-diem will be for the International Dissemination Conference.

Item 4. Review of the DoW, milestones, deliverables

Each coordinator took the floor and presented the WP led.

WP1. Project Coordination. D. Gabiña (presentation on the Intranet).

D. Gabiña briefly presented the objectives and tasks of this WP. However most of the administrative aspects were dealt with in the General Assembly.

WP2. Current understandings in stock assessment and fishery effects on ecosystems, by P. Sartor (presentation on the Intranet).

P. Sartor, the WP2 leader, briefly presented the status of the works of this WP.

All the activities foreseen of this WP have been accomplished in accordance with DOW of the project.

As concerns Task 2.1, the Workshop "Current understandings in the framework of Ecosystem Approach of Fisheries in Mediterranean and Black Sea: summary and critical analysis of the available information on the anthropogenic ecosystem impacts and resource assessment" was held in Rome from May 30 to 31 2012. Two Deliverables were produced in July 2012):

D 2.1 - Report of Workshop 1 (Restricted to the partners of the project).

D 2.2 - Summary Report of Workshop 1 (website).

As concerns Task 2.2, the Workshop "Comparative analysis of the management systems adopted in different countries/GSAs of Mediterranean and Black Sea" was held in Malta on April 18^o 2013. Two Deliverables were produced in July 2013):

D 2.3 - Report of Workshop 2 (Restricted to the partners of the project).

D 2.4 - Summary Report of Workshop 2 (website).

Finally, the Deliverable D 2.5 Synoptic tables summarizing the information gathered: (Web site, public) was produced in October 2013.

WP3. Data needs, quality, harmonisation, methodologies and models for an EAF, by J. Vigneau

This period was used to discuss the indicators, reference points and mathematical models which would suit the potentialities and the context of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The first discussions were held during the Malta workshop in April 2013 and then in the workshop held in Split (Croatia) in October 2013.

In July 2013, the deliverable 3.2 "Overview of data available in support of an EAF in the Mediterranean and Black sea, and evaluation of their quality" finalised the data mining exercise and demonstrated that there was a large amount of data available for EAF in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The time series may be discontinued at some locations and the format range from paper sheet to structured databases. Moreover, it was concluded that there was probably hardly any location gathering all the data needed for ecosystem based fisheries management (EBFM) but lack of data or uncertainty about the impact of the fishery should not be used as an argument for delaying the EBFM plan.

In December 2013, the deliverable 3.3 "Report on proposed indicators, models, methodologies and reference points for the EAF in Mediterranean and Black Sea" concluded that it would be difficult to move EBFM beyond the core components of



eliminating overfishing of the main species, reducing by-catch and habitat impact, and protecting endangered or charismatic species. The document detailed the main indicators to be used based on the INDISEAS project and the recent Mediterranean Countries Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the European Commission agreement

to use the 11 EU MSFD descriptors as a basis for defining the Mediterranean ecological objectives taking into account the regional specificities (Istanbul, COP 18, December 2013). The document served as the basis for the course given on Ecosystem approach to fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Varna (Bulgaria), 3-7 February 2014.

In April 2014, the deliverable 3.4 “Proposal of standards for a public website, EAF dashboard and GIS in support of the EAF in the Mediterranean and Black sea” gave a first idea of a website content for EAF in the Mediterranean and Black Sea and backed the idea of the EMASEAS network project (see WP4).

WP4. Coordination with the assessment and management international/regional bodies, presented by J. Lleonart (presentation on the Intranet)

This WP was dealt with during a devoted session of the agenda, Final Meeting of WP4 (see minutes in Annex 5).

WP5. Training and capacity building. Conference. Dissemination component, presented by D. Gabiña (presentation on the Intranet)

The two programmed training courses have been organised:

- Course 1. Ecosystem approach to fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. **Scientific basis.** Varna (Bulgaria), 3-7 February 2014.
- Course 2. Ecosystem approach to fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. **Management and decision making.** Zaragoza (Spain), 10-14 March 2014.

Deliverable 5.5 “ITCs Report”, provides full information about the two training courses. As a summary, Course 1 was addressed to fisheries researchers and with the objective of training scientists and advisors in advanced approaches and tools of EAF that are better adapted to the nature of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. 31 experts from the following 16 countries attended the course: Algeria (1), Bulgaria (4), Croatia (1), Cyprus (1), Egypt (2), Georgia (1), Greece (2), Italy (2), Israel (1), Lebanon (2), Malta (2), Morocco (1), Romania (2), Spain (5), Tunisia (2) and Turkey (3). Participants came from different national administrations, universities, research institutions and private companies. The course counted on the expertise of 12 qualified lecturers participating in the CREAM Project and invited experts from international institutions and from universities and research centres in different countries (Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy and Spain, and FAO-Rome).

Course 2 was addressed to fisheries decision makers, managers and technical advisors, and aimed to provide an overview of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) concepts, methods and tools, and to guide the participants through the main steps of the fisheries planning and management process required for the practical implementation of the EAF. 27 experts from the following 14 countries attended the course: Algeria (1), Bulgaria (2), Cyprus (1), Egypt (2), Georgia (1), Greece (1), Italy (2), Lebanon (2), Malta (1), Morocco (2), Romania (1), Spain (6), Tunisia (3) and Turkey (2). Participants came from different national administrations, research institutions and private companies. The course counted on the expertise of 12 well-qualified lecturers participating in the CREAM Project and invited experts from international



institutions and from universities, research centres, NGOs and professional associations in different countries (France, Italy, Spain and USA, and FAO-Rome).

The International Dissemination Conference, is to be held in Barcelona on 9-10 April 2014 at the hall of conferences of the CREAM partner ICM-CSIC. 82 participants from 17 countries (Algeria, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Romania, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) are expected and also representatives from BSC, FAO and GFCM. The programme will consist of 19 oral presentations and one round table. The Proceedings of the Conference have been published and are already available, in hardcopy and online, in a special issue of Scientia Marina (The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Seas; Sci. Mar. 78S1: 2014; <http://www.icm.csic.es/scimar/index.php/seclD/6/IdNum/196/>)

WP6. Strengthening the scientific basis of the EAF application in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, presented by P. Cury (presentation on the Intranet).

A second workshop entitled "Building an operational scientific network for implementing EAF in the Mediterranean and Black Sea" was held in Split (Croatia) in October 2013.

A total of 22 participants from CREAM attended the workshop. They represented CREAM partners from Spain, Greece, Italy, France, Morocco, Tunis, Rumania, Bulgaria, Russia, Ukraina, Egypt, Croatia, Malta and Cyprus.

The main aim of the workshop was to discuss how to build an operational scientific network for implementing EAF in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. During the meeting a series of presentations were followed by sufficient time for discussion between participants. As a result of this workshop, the following deliverables were produced:

Deliverable 1: Minute notes and presentations compiled during the workshop that inform on key issues to take into account to move forward the operational EAF in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region. During the discussion, the development of the first EMBASEAS newsletter was discussed. This newsletter should help outreach CREAM results and future collaborations of the network.

Deliverable 2: Operational EAF tables by country. Before, during and after the workshop, each CREAM participant compiled a table on relevant information regarding operational EAF. In each table, and by main fisheries, essential information on current initiatives towards EAF was summarized.

These two deliverables are included in the CREAM Deliverable 6.2 "Executive Report of the final meeting including the discussion regarding how to build an operational scientific network for implementing EAF in the Mediterranean and Black Sea"



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Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and management advice
in the Mediterranean and Black Seas





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**3rd Coordination Meeting
Institut de Ciències del Mar de Barcelona, CSIC, Spain
8 April 2014**

Annex 1. Agenda

8 April

Time		Lead
COORDINATION MEETING		
09:00	Welcome and opening (ICM-CSIC, Coordinators)	Coordinators
09:15	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval of the agenda2. Approval of the minutes of 2nd Coordination Meeting and General Assembly held in Malta on 17-18 April 20133. Report by the Coordinators	Coordinators
09:45	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Review of the DoW, milestones, deliverables<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WP2• WP3• WP5	WP leaders
<i>11:00</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Review of the DoW, milestones, deliverables<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WP4. Task 4.3 Final Meeting of WP4• WP6. Task 6.3 Creation of a network for strengthening the scientific basis for the EAF. Discussion of the EMBASEAS Constitutional Framework	WP leaders
<i>13:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	



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3rd Coord. Meeting, General Assembly and WP4 Meeting Annex 2. List of Participants

Bulgaria

Marina PANAYOTOVA

Department of Marine Biology and Ecology
Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
"Parvy maj" street, 40
9000 Varna
Bulgaria
Tel.: +359 52370486
E-mail: mpanayotova@io-bas.bg

Valentina TODOROVA

Department of Marine Biology and Ecology
Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
"Parvy maj" street, 40
9000 Varna
Bulgaria
Tel.: +359 52370486
E-mail: vtodorova@io-bas.bg

Croatia

Vjekoslav TIČINA

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
Šetalište Ivana Meštrovića, 63
21000 Split
Croatia
Tel.: +385 21408037
E-mail: ticina@izor.hr

Nedo VRGOČ

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
Šetalište Ivana Meštrovića, 63
21000 Split
Croatia
Tel.: +385 21408051
E-mail: vrgoc@izor.hr

Cyprus

Giorgos BAYADAS

Department of Fisheries and Marine Research
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and
Environment
Vithleem, 101
1416 Nicosia
Cyprus
Tel.: +357 22807815

E-mail: gpaiatas@dfmr.moa.gov.cy

Egypt

Amira Mohsen ElSayed HAMDAN

Oceanography Department
Faculty of Sciences
Alexandria University
El Geish Street, 22
21526 Alexandria
Egypt
Tel.: +20 01008863980
E-mail: amira_hamdan1978@yahoo.com

Abdel-Fattah EL-SAYED

Oceanography Department
Faculty of Sciences
Alexandria University
El Geish Street, 22
21526 Alexandria
Egypt
Tel.: +20 34843172
E-mail: afmelsayed@gmail.com

France

Marta COLL

UMR EME 212 IRD/UM2
Centre de Recherche Halieutique
Méditerranéenne et Tropicale
IRD - IFREMER & Université Montpellier II
Avenue Jean Monnet, BP 171
34203 Sète Cedex
France
Tel.: +33 499573234
E-mail: marta.coll@ird.fr

Christian CHABOUD

UMR EME 212 IRD/UM2
Centre de Recherche Halieutique
Méditerranéenne et Tropicale
IRD - IFREMER & Université Montpellier II
Avenue Jean Monnet, BP 171
34203 Sète Cedex
France
Tel.: +33 499573246
E-mail: christian.chaboud@ird.fr



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E-mail: francesco.colloca@uniroma1.it
francesco.colloca@iamc.cnr.it

Philippe CURY

UMR EME 212 IRD/UM2
Centre de Recherche Halieutique
Méditerranéenne et Tropicale
IRD - IFREMER & Université Montpellier II
Avenue Jean Monnet, BP 171
34203 Sète Cedex
France
Tel.: +33 499573234
E-mail: philippe.cury@ird.fr, philippe.cury@ifremer.fr

Georgia

Mr Akaki KOMAKHIDZE

Water Ecology and Fisheries Research Institute
51, Rustaveli St.
6010 Batumi
Georgia
Tel/Fax: (+995) 422 27 46 41
E-mail: wefri2006@yahoo.com

Greece

Dimitrios KLAODATOS

Hellenic Center for Marine Research
Institute for Marine Biological Resources
and Inland Waters
Agios Kosmas, 16777 Hellinikon
Athens, Greece
Tel.: +30 2109856717
E-mail: dklaoudatos@hcmr.gr

Christos MARAVELIAS

Institute of Marine Biological Resources
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
46.7 km Athens-Sounio Avenue
19013 Anavissos Attiki
Greece
Tel.: +30 2109856703
E-mail: cmaravel@hcmr.gr

Italy

Francesco COLLOCA

Dipartimento di Biologia Animale e dell'Uomo
Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"
Viale dell'Università, 32
00185 Roma
Italy
Tel.: +39 0649914763

Fabio FIORENTINO

Istituto per l'Ambiente Marino Costiero
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Via Luigi Vaccara, 61
91026 Mazara del Vallo (TP)
Italy
Tel.: +39 0923 948966
E-mail: fabio.fiorentino@iamc.cnr.it

Germana GAROFALO

Istituto per l'Ambiente Marino Costiero
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Via Luigi Vaccara, 61
91026 Mazara del Vallo (TP)
Italy
Tel.: +39 0917829740
E-mail: germana.garofalo@cnr.it

Paolo SARTOR

Renewable Resources Laboratory
Consorzio per il Centro Interuniversitario di
Biologia Marina ed Ecologia Applicata "G. Bacci"
Viale Nazario Sauro, 4
57128 Livorno
Italy
Tel.: +39 0586807287
E-mail: psartor@cibm.it

Mario SBRANA

Consorzio per il Centro Interuniversitario di
Biologia Marina ed Ecologia Applicata "G. Bacci"
Viale Nazario Sauro, 4
57128 Livorno
Italy
Tel.: +39 0586 260723
E-mail: msbrana@cibm.it

Lebanon

Michel BARICHE

Department of Biology
American University of Beirut
Bliss Street College Hall Ras
Beirut
Lebanon
Tel.: +961 1374374
E-mail: mb39@aub.edu.lb



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in the Mediterranean and Black Seas



900581 Constanta
Romania
Tel.: +40 241540870/ 138
E-mail: tzaharia@alpha.rmri.ro

Malta

Marie Louise PACE

Fisheries Control Directorate
Ministry for Sustainable Development, the
Environment and Climate Change
Għammieri
Ngiered Road
Marsa MRS 3303
Malta
Tel.: +356 22921257
E-mail: marie-louise.pace@gov.mt

Morocco

Abderrahman BERNOUSSI

Cooperation Division
Institut National de Recherche Halieutique
2, rue de Tiznit
20000 Casablanca
Morocco
E-mail: BERNOUSSI@inrh.ma

Saïd TALEB

Cooperation Division
Institut National de Recherche Halieutique
2, rue de Tiznit
20000 Casablanca
Morocco
Tel.: +212 522297329
E-mail: taleb@inrh.ma

Romania

Gheorghe RADU

National Institute for Marine Research and
Development "Grigore Antipa"
Mamaia Bvd., 300
900581 Constanta
Romania
Tel.: +40 241540870
E-mail: gpr@alpha.rmri.ro, gradu@alpha.rmri.ro

Tania ZAHARIA

NIRDEP Sub.Unit
National Institute for Marine Research and
Development "Grigore Antipa"
Mamaia Bvd., 300

Spain

José M^a BELLIDO

Centro Oceanográfico de Murcia
Instituto Español de Oceanografía
Varadero, 1
30740 San Pedro del Pinatar (Murcia)
Spain
Tel.: +34 968 180500
E-mail: josem.bellido@mu.ieo.es

Dunixi GABIÑA

Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza /
CIHEAM
Av. Montañana, 1005
50059 Zaragoza
Spain
Tel.: +34 976716000
E-mail: iamz@iamz.ciheam.org

Laura FONTAN

Institut de Ciències del Mar
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta, 37-49
08003 Barcelona
Spain
Tel.: +34 932309500
E-mail: lleonart@icm.csic.es

Jordi LLEONART

Institut de Ciències del Mar
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta, 37-49
08003 Barcelona
Spain
Tel.: +34 932309500
E-mail: lleonart@icm.csic.es

Antonio LÓPEZ-FRANCOS

Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza /
CIHEAM
Av. Montañana, 1005
50059 Zaragoza
Spain
Tel.: +34 976716000



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Coordinating research in support to application of
Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and management advice
in the Mediterranean and Black Seas



E-mail: iamz@iamz.ciheam.org

Paloma MARTIN

Institut de Ciències del Mar
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta, 37-49
08003 Barcelona
Spain
Tel.: +34 932309559
E-mail: maynouf@icm.csic.es

Francesc MAYNOU

Institut de Ciències del Mar
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta, 37-49
08003 Barcelona
Spain
Tel.: +34 932309559
E-mail: maynouf@icm.csic.es

Tunisia

Adel GAAMOUR

Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de
la Mer
Port de pêche
2060 La Goulette
Tunisia
Tel.: +216 71735848
E-mail: gaamour.adel@instm.rnrt.tn

Othman JARBOUI

Living Marine Resources Laboratory
Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de
la Mer
BP 1035
3018 Sfax
Tunisia
Tel.: +216 74497117
E-mail: othman.jarboui@instm.rnrt.tn

Turkey

Adnan TOKAÇ

Fisheries Faculty
Ege University
Su Ürünleri Fakültesi
35100 Bornova, İzmir
Turkey
Tel.: +90 2323747450
E-mail: adnan.tokac@ege.edu.tr

Zafer TOSUNOĞLU

Ege University Fisheries Faculty
Department of Fishing and Processing Technology
35100 Bornova, İzmir
Turkey
Tel.: +90.232.3111826
E-mail: zafer.tosunoglu@ege.edu.tr

GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean)

Miguel BERNAL

General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean (GFCM)
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Food and
Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
(FAO)
Palazzo Blumenstihl
Via Vittoria Colonna 1
00193 Roma
Italy
Tel: +39 06 57056537
Fax: +39 06 57055827
E-mail: miguel.bernal@fao.org

Henry FARRUGIO

General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean (GFCM) Scientific Advisory
Committee
Palazzo Blumenstihl
Via Vittoria Colonna 1
00193 Roma
Italy
Henri.Farrugio@ifremer.fr

BSC (Black Sea Commission)

Violin RAYKOV

BSC (Black Sea Commission)
Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
"Parvy maj" street, 40
9000 Varna
Bulgaria
Tel.: +359 52624382
E-mail: vio_raykov@abv.bg

FAO

Constantina RIGA



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in the Mediterranean and Black Seas



Former FAO EastMed Project Coordinator

Megalou Alexandrou 10

15237 Filothei, Athens

Greece

Tel: +306945874145

E-mail: constakarlou@gmail.com



General Assembly
Institut de Ciències del Mar de Barcelona, CSIC, Spain
8 April 2014

MINUTES

The CREAM Consortium Agreement (CA) signed by all partners establishes the General Assembly (GA) as the ultimate decision-making body of the Consortium. The GA takes decisions on the workplan, the financial issues and in general on all matters of fundamental importance to the consortium. The General Assembly (GA) will take place at least once a year and will be chaired by the Project Coordinator.

The General Assembly was attended was attended by the same 39 participants than in the Coordination Meeting, 35 from the CREAM consortium and four from the international organisations members of the External Advisory Committee (BSC, FAO and GFCM). All presentations, making reference to Agenda Items (annex 2), are available at the Intranet of the CREAM Web site: www.cream-fp7.eu following the path:

Intranet - Meetings - General Assembly (Barcelona 8 April 2014)

For accessing the Intranet:

User: partnercream

Password: keypartner

Item 1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda (see annex 1) was approved.

Item 2. Approval of the minutes of the last General Assembly

The minutes of the last General Assembly (Malta, 17 April 2013) were approved. They are available at the Intranet at:

5 - Deliverables / Deliverable 1.7 CREAM Minutes of Coordination Meeting 2.

Item 3. Financial issues

In the 1st Activity Report covering 1st half of the project (May 2011- Oct 2012) and submitted to the EC on 05/02/2013, expenditure in personnel was 49% of the total available budget. For other expenses (meetings, workshops, training courses and conferences), the expenditure in March 2014 was 62% of the available budget; nevertheless, it is expected to exhaust the budget since the final conference in Barcelona will be the most costly activity.

Item 4. Preparation of the next scientific and financial reports

The details of this item are available at the Intranet (Item 4_Lopez-Francos.pdf) and also, given his relevanc, at the end of these minutes, as annex 2 to the General Assembly. Partners are requested to pay attention to this presentation.



As known, the project CREAM will end at 30/04/2014. Three reports are to be submitted to the European Commission:

- Progress periodic report 2nd period. Period covered: 01/11/2012 - 30/04/2014). Same contents and format as the 1st Report: publishable summary, objectives, progress of work, deliverables and milestones achieved. Responsible: WP leaders and coordinators (with collaboration of other partners at request of WP leaders)
- Final report. Period covered: 01/05/2011 - 30/04/2014). Content: publishable summary, use and dissemination of foreground, societal implications. To be elaborated by WP leaders and coordinators, and submitted to participant portal by coordinators.
- Financial report 2nd period (Form C). Period covered: 01/11/2012 - 30/04/2014). Cost declaration to be filled by each participant at the the participant portal, and then printed and signed by each participant.

Item 5. Voting and approval of the EMBASEAS Constitutional Framework

The “EMBASEAS NETWORK” has been defined as a scientific network to promote EAF in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. EMBASEAS is expected to be a sustainable structure which will give continuation to CREAM after the project finishes. A text of Constitutional Framework has been prepared by the CREAM Steering Committee (Coordinators and WP leaders) and is presented in annex 3 to these minutes. In annex 4 are presented the comments and suggestions during this presentation and discussion, as recorded by Marta Coll from IRD who acted as rapporteur.

After a round of comments and suggestions, it was agreed the coordinators would draft a new text which would be submitted to all the CREAM partners and to the members of the External Advisory Group (done on 29 April 2014). After one month for receiving new comments and suggestions, the updated text will be sent again for adhesion.

In spite of not having the definitive text approved, it was agreed that since it would be difficult for all the CREAM partners to meet together in the short term, it would be very advisable to vote for the Network Coordinator and for the scientific representative of each of the two Subnetworks (Mediterranean and Black Sea). It was agreed to elect Philippe Cury as the Network Coordinator for the period of the next six months, and Said Taleb and Marina Panayotova as scientific representatives for the Mediterranean and Black Sea, respectively.



CREAM

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General Assembly
Institut de Ciències del Mar de Barcelona, CSIC, Spain
8 April 2014

Annex 1. Agenda

Time		Lead
14:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval of the agenda2. Approval of the minutes of the last General Assembly held in Malta on 17 April 20133. Financial issues4. Preparation of the next scientific and financial reports5. Voting and approval of the EMBASEAS Constitutional Framework6. If approved, voting for the Network Coordinator and for the scientific representative of each of the two Subnetworks (Mediterranean and Black Sea)	Coordinators
16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
17:00	Final discussion	
17:30	Close	



Annex 2
A scientific network to promote EAF in the Mediterranean and Black Seas
“EMBSEAS NETWORK”
APRIL 2014

CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Background

As a result of the development of the “Coordinating research in support to application of EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas”, acronym: CREAM, Call: FP7-KBBE-2010-4 KBBE.2010.1.4-08: Improving research in support to scientific advice to fisheries management in the Mediterranean and Black Seas Mandatory ICPC (Mediterranean Partner Countries and Black Sea countries), May, 2011 - April 2014 Duration: 3 years, the partnership of the CREAM Coordination Research has produced this document.

The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) is, according to the FAO, an approach to fisheries management and development that strives to balance diverse societal objectives, by taking into account the knowledge and uncertainties about biotic, abiotic and human components of ecosystems and their interactions and applying an integrated approach to fisheries within ecologically meaningful boundaries. The purpose of EAF is to plan, develop and manage fisheries in a manner that addresses the multiple needs and desires of societies, without jeopardizing the options for future generations to benefit from the full range of goods and services provided by marine.

One of the main conclusion of the WP6 of the CREAM project was that a visionary and coordinated scientific network to promote operational EAF initiatives, created by the scientific community following a bottom-up approach in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, is needed. The proposed scientific network, named EMBSEAS (the network aiming at being an ambassador to promote EAF in the Mediterranean and Black Seas), should add value to the current situation (Coll et al 2013¹).

The network should be independent and individually based, but with clear links to regional bodies such as GFCM, FAO, BSC, the EU Joint Research Centre, and other regional and intergovernmental institutions, as well as with non-governmental organizations promoting EAF. Key players of the network should be those interested scientists of different disciplines, participating as independent individuals, rather than as national or institutional representatives. The network should have strong links with local and regional organizations involved in EAF initiatives, and seek the involvement of other stakeholders such as professional and recreational fishers, other users of the marine environment, naturalists, local experts, and policy makers.

The discussion of the group was also on how to build such a network with the consolidation of a regional scientific vision, with a clear scientific strategy, and plan (including a diversified toolbox), to promote the rendering the scientific aspect of EAF in the region operational. Such a network should have the capability to define a clear, strong, and shared vision for EAF in the region. This could be achieved by gaining a broader view on the EAF implementation strategy, in particular by keeping track of what needs to be pursued to ultimately ensure a good status of the

¹ Coll, M., Cury, P., Azzurro, E., Bariche, M., Bayadas, G., Bellido, J.M., Chaboud, C., Claudet, J., El-Sayed, A., Gascuel, D., Knittweis, L., Pipitone, C., Samuel-Rhoads, Y., Taleb, S., Tudela, S., Valls, A., Participants, W., 2013. The scientific strategy needed to promote a regional ecosystem-based approach to fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries* 23, 415-434.



Mediterranean and Black Sea ecosystems. The network should communicate experience obtained in implementing EAF, identify key objectives and topics, and establish a road map of coordinated actions to accomplish them. The scientific network should also aim to promote the coordination of scientific activities, to date local or fragmented, in an efficient way, using local initiatives but contributing to the regional vision. This would bridge different geographical scales and promote the exchange of experiences and the use of innovative tools such as models, indicators, scenarios, and other integrative tools. The methodology and manner of linking the initiatives from the local to the regional level can be a considerable challenge for the network.

In the short term, the network could start as a networking activity of scientists and stakeholders to promote the EAF approach by exchanging information, coordinating activities, and improving the capacity of developing science for EAF in the region. The network should promote concrete scientific actions considering available data, tools, and initiatives at different geographic scales to improve process-based ecological knowledge in the area. The group identified several novel topics and initiatives with added value to the network (e.g., the ecology and impact of Non-indigenous species NIS, cumulative impacts, the impacts of specific fishing gear, building scenarios, ...). One of the first tasks of a coordinated scientific initiative would be to identify, document, and promote successful case studies in the region. This could help establish bridges between scientists, policy makers, and other users of the sea, in a transversal way dealing with the best territorial management unit. Other potential immediate activities include the documentation of initiatives, the sharing of already available information and scientific capabilities, the improvement of the training capabilities, and the capacity building of the scientific community and stakeholders, and the establishment of mechanisms to disseminate knowledge to end users.

In the medium-long term, the network should aim at promoting the implementation of an EAF (from the local to the regional level), and providing scientific advice on EAF to inform adaptive management in the whole Mediterranean and Black Sea, where at present only stock assessment advice is taken into account (if at all). Thus, the ultimate goal of the network should be to link management advice to good scientific information, thus creating an ecosystem knowledge based management approach. By establishing successful liaisons with local and regional organizations and initiatives, needing scientific advice to promote EAF, the scientific network could contribute to the management of territorial units and provide a stable platform to share successful stories, resources, ideas, and expertise. The network could facilitate the discussion of common problems and possible solutions with local applicability in a coordinated manner and under a common regional vision and strategy. Scientists involved in early practices of EAF could find in the network a suitable platform for networking among themselves to learn tactics on how to implement EAF at the local level, while also building a strategy at regional level. Such a network would face the challenge of delivering and coordinating at the regional strategic level what can be effectively done at the local tactical level, while influencing the decision making process at different geographic scales (local, regional, European levels). The ultimate goal should be to link management advice to good scientific information and transform policy strategies and goals into operational objectives. Another important role of the network would be to anticipate the needs of stakeholders - both local communities and managers - and the global changes that may occur in the future in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

The network should also be used as an opportunity to anticipate the future and invest in tools such as generic and validated models and indicators. In this manner scientists would be able to contribute to initiatives and calls for predicting the dynamics of the ocean, and building scenarios of socio-ecological systems. Indeed, it is already clear that in a few years, scientists will have to provide integrated and multidisciplinary scientific advice on possible future scenarios and the available alternatives to avoid adverse changes in ecosystems and ecosystem services, integrating data on ecology, climate, socioeconomics, and demographics. These tools will enable us to investigate the future of the region, and analyse how to reconcile long-term objectives with local



constraints (exploring trade-offs with a suite of socioeconomic and ecological objectives) following the successful initiative of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPBES). There is thus a clear need to start building on the capability to integrate, modify, improve, innovate, fit and calibrate complex models and frameworks, which will require the promotion of data integration, harmonization, and accessibility. The scientific community has to advance towards can build a roadmap of coordinated actions to develop a common strategy and advance towards the future; and the EMBASEAS network may be a good opportunity to achieve this.

The group decided to develop a series of immediate activities to promote EMBASEAS:

- (i) The distribution of workshop material and discussions using scientific literature, and the CREAM website (<http://www.cream-fp7.eu/>). This distribution should be kept after the end of CREAM initiative;
- (ii) The development of a newsletter to communicate and promote the activities of the network, and inform EAF initiatives in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region;
- (iii) The design of a website to present and promote EMBASEAS;
- (iv) The coordination of efforts to answer to future research calls at the European level to fully implement the scientific network envisaged by the group;

The CREAM partnership:

- Recognizing that EAF is, probably, the only way to manage Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries in an long-term and shared efficient manner;
- Realizing the wide disparity among the Region's countries in terms of socio-economic conditions and the human, physical, and administrative capacities existing in these countries;
- Learning from the experiences of other regions and/or countries clearly emphasizes the effectiveness of adopting the concepts included in EAF;
- Noting the need for generation and exchange of information on marine ecosystems issues;
- Recognizing that marine ecosystems are trans-boundary and require effective regional cooperation and coordination among various stakeholders;

Have agreed in Barcelona on April 8th, 2014 to constitute a Network on EAF for the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The Network shall be guided by the following Constitutional Framework:

Network Name

The name of the network shall be "EMBASEAS: a scientific network to promote EAF in the Mediterranean and Black Seas", hereinafter referred to as the "Network".

Objectives

1. The overall objective of the Network is enhanced technical co-operation among concerned national, regional and intergovernmental organizations in the Region, particularly the exchange of information and experience among the member countries.

Specific objectives include:



- (a) Promoting the scientific approach of EAF by coordinating activities, and improving the capacity of developing science for EAF in the region;
- (b) Establishing bridges between scientists, policy makers, and other users of the sea, in a transversal way;
- (c) Promoting the implementation of an EAF at all levels (from local to regional), and providing scientific advice on EAF to inform adaptive management in the region;
- (d) Linking management advice to good scientific information, thus creating knowledge based management approach;
- (e) Facilitating the development of national, sub-regional and regional project proposals to address EAF;
- (f) Streamlining exchange of information on monitoring tools and data among members;
- (g) Promoting the exchange of information and coping mechanisms to support EAF implementation process in member countries;
- (h) Strengthening and developing human and institutional capabilities at the national level;
- (i) Promoting cooperation in planning and implementing EAF programmes at national and regional levels;
- (j) Disseminating information among concerned organizations/institutions on EAF issues, and promoting professional contacts, study tours, expert meetings, training courses, etc.;
- (k) Coordinate activities with other relevant regional and international networks.

Functions/Activities

2. In pursuance with the above objectives, the Network shall assume the following functions:
 - (a) Produce an EMBASEAS newsletter (e.g., every three months) that will produce the link between the different stakeholders; communicate scientific results or methodology, implementation and experimental results on EAF and communicate information throughout the network;
 - (b) Convene periodic meetings for the executive committee to discuss the Network work plans, evaluate programmes and their implementation;
 - (c) Establish and develop regional databases and directories for professionals and institutions relevant to fisheries and environmental monitoring, assessment and management;
 - (d) Organize, alone or jointly with other collaborating agencies, working sessions, workshops and seminars on specific aspects of EAF and prepare thematic studies;
 - (e) Review and assess current practices, plans of action and policies followed in the Mediterranean and Black Sea;
 - (f) Promote joint collaborative activities among countries to consolidate the linkages and synergy in resources utilization in research, training and networking,



Membership

3. The following can be members of the network:
- (a) Institutions, and individuals within these institutions, including public sector, NGOs and private sector in the Region's countries;
 - (b) Regional and intergovernmental organizations involved in similar activities and operating in the region. GFCM, BSC and FAO will be expressly invited to be members of the network. Although IAMZ-CIHEAM will be one of the EMBASEAS founders (see below), this organization will be considered as one of those mentioned in this Article 3 (b) given its intergovernmental nature;
 - (c) Other relevant organizations or bodies as may be decided by the Network.

Eligible Institutions and individuals may join the Network by submitting a request of membership to the Coordinator subject to approval by the Network Steering Committee.

CREAM Partners (IAMZ-CIHEAM, CSIC, HCMR, CIBM, IFREMER, IRD, IEO, CNR, INRH, INSTM, EGE UNIV, NIMRD, IO BAS, VNIRO, YugNIRO, AU, IOR, AUB, MRRA, DFMR and WEFRI) submitting this request will be considered as EMBASEAS founders, although this character will not provide them comparative advantages over the other members of the Network.

Resources

4. The resources of the Network shall come from:
- (a) Contributions made by the Members listed above, within available budgetary resources;
 - (b) Grants and donations from governments, funding agencies, individuals, national, regional, or regional and intergovernmental organizations, development banks and others, within available budgetary resources.

Structure

5. The Network will be structured into two Subnetworks:
- (a) Mediterranean Subnetwork:
 - (b) Black Sea Subnetwork

Sub-networks will conduct its activities mainly within its main geographical region but will also join those conducted by the Network at large.

6. The organizational structure of the Inter-Regional Network will consist of:
- (a) a Network Coordinator (NC). This person will have the support of his/her Institution to carry out his/her task.
 - (b) a Steering Committee (SC), consisting of the Network Coordinator, a scientific representative of each of the two Subnetworks and a representative of each of the regional and intergovernmental organizations joining the network.
 - (c) The members of the Network



Network Coordinator

7. The Network Coordinator (NC) is chosen by all the network members for a renewable period of four years, he/she should be from a Mediterranean or Black Sea scientific institution and will have the following tasks:
 - (a) Be the coordination and management entity for the network;
 - (b) Maintain the documentation on activities;
 - (c) In cooperation with SC organize collaborative activities, approved by the cooperating countries;
 - (d) Disseminate information by means of the Web site and a newsletter;
 - (e) In cooperation with International bodies, organize meetings, workshops, consultations, etc. at which progress and proposals for future work programmes will be examined;
 - (f) Prepare, every year, a progress report for general distribution to members on the progress of joint activities;
 - (g) Maintain liaison with other regional, non-governmental and international organizations concerned with Mediterranean ecosystem management and provide specialist advice on specific problems if needed.

Steering Committee

8. The Steering Committee will meet periodically, if funds are available every year, otherwise every two years, to review the progress achieved, problems encountered and future programme of activities. The Steering Committee Meeting should be held, whenever possible, in connection with workshops or technical meetings organized by Network (e.g. EUROMARINE+).
9. Following the Steering Committee Meeting a short report on the status and planned activities of the network will be submitted to the Network members.



Financial implications of member countries

10. The Inter-Regional Network will be based on establishing inter-country cooperation within the ongoing national programmes. The collaborative research and documentation work to be carried out within the countries would be part of the national programmes which would already have been budgeted for.
11. However, each participating institute should be prepared to defray from its own budget, whatever expenses (for staff, equipment, etc.) could be needed to make its scientific contribution to joint projects, as well as for the purpose of the agreed cooperation in the field of documentation.
12. The inter-country technical meetings and training courses, which a country agrees to host, may require national funds to meet the cost in local currency. Such costs may include within-country transportation, board and lodging of participants and miscellaneous costs. The participating countries may, in future, establish local currency funds to finance the hosting of inter-country technical meetings, training courses and study tours.

Regional and intergovernmental organizations participation

13. Regional and intergovernmental organizations joining the network will support and sponsor, within available budgetary resources, the plan for the establishment of the Network in collaboration with the participants.
14. Regional and intergovernmental organizations joining the network will have a catalytic role in this Network to promote exchange of information, expertise/experience. Within available budgetary resources, they will provide technical assistance and advice to Network participants, as may be requested, through the provision of services of technical officers, specialists and consultants for short assignments. Meetings can take place in any country of the Geographic Regions.
15. Regional and intergovernmental organizations joining the network will carefully follow the Network activities, mainly through the information supplied by the coordination and liaison centres and through personal contacts.
16. Regional and intergovernmental organizations joining the network, within available budgetary resources, may consider covering part of the cost of technical meetings, workshops and consultations, the printing and distribution of consultation documents and subsequent reports, and the follow-up activities of the network by the Coordinator and the Steering Committee.
17. Regional and intergovernmental organizations joining the network will be willing to cooperate constructively with all regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organization interested in the attainment of objects of the Network.

Decision-making

18. In the making of decisions concerning the Network's operation, a consensus will be sought. Should a vote be used, the participants of each country will have only one joint vote. Since such cooperation is founded on voluntary adherence of participating experts, no compulsion can be exerted by them.



19. The decisions that have implications for regional and intergovernmental organizations joining the network will need its approval.



Annex 3 COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE EMBASEAS TEXT

About the Title

There is some discussion about promote

- MBernal: A scientific network "in support of" the application of EAF ...
 - In general it looks like the word "Promote" is problematic.
 - MBariche states that promote and support are synonyms.
- The suggestion by Bernal is accepted.

About the Objectives

- a) OK
- b) OK
- c) To be corrected. Provide scientific advice...

-MBernal: there is not a mention to the SAC in the document. The network has to make a clear mention on how to provide advice to GFCM, and not the other way around (GFCM to the network).

-JLleonart: the Scientists have to provide advice, so the point c) does not overlap with SAC objectives.

-PMartin: we should not mention countries as members, but partner institutions and scientists.

-GBayadas: we need to include the fishers and also mention scientists from other disciplines (not only stock assessment scientists)

-JLleonart: from point c) to delete "to inform adaptive management..."

-HFarrugio: the first aim of EMBASEAS should be to get knowledge at the ecosystem level, this is not clear in the text

-PCury: we need to provide quick advice on ecosystem indicators

-MBernal: a) "in the region" ...only at the Mediterranean region for GFCM. Countries can do advice inside their own country as far as it is more conservative than what is adopted in GFCM. The "region" is problematic.

-CMaravelias: we are doing EAF management in Greece before going through the GFCM.

-JBellido: We are talking about two different things. To provide advice is not a prerogative of the GFCM, it can also be the work of the scientific community.

-FColloca: the network should be independent and should start from CREAM partners.

-DGabiña: in CREAM there are also external partners as the advisory partners (GFCM, FAO, etc). We should avoid conflict and the network should be based on the participation of individuals and institutions. But the EC wants to have a group of scientists that go in line with the regional bodies, so EMBASEAS cannot be independent.

-MBernal: you can create an independent network to provide advice to whoever you want, but that is not going to be accepted by GFCM if that advice is at the regional level.

-STaleb: a network cannot provide official advice as a working group or a commission.

-JLleonart: Let's remove "in the region", change "sea" by "marine environment", change "countries" to "institutions and centers".

-HFarrugio: change "scientific advice" for "scientific information or knowledge".

-DGabiña: "scientific advice" is ok.

-MBernal: I have a big problem with d)

-JLleonart: we will remove point d) then.

About Activities/Functions

-DGabiña: a) Maybe not every three months it is too much, maybe periodical it is better



- FAO: Remove establish and develop regional databases (apparently there is already a network in North African countries and in the Black Sea)
- MBernal: main problem in e), or include "in collaboration with relevant bodies".
- Group: Better to skip e)

Membership

- JLleonart: remove countries.
- JBellido: the members should be individuals.
- DGabiña: we have to think about that because in CREAM partners are institutions. Maybe we can include "institutions and individuals" and delete "within these institutions"
- PCury: individuals are key in IPBES, you are chosen for your individual capability to work and what your expertise is. You are scientists.
- MBariche: let's keep it to scientists.
- MBernal: different memberships have different rights, this is not clear in the document.
- DGabiña: every member has the same right to express themselves and only regional institutions have the right to accept actions that affect their budget. We will clarify this.
- D.Gabiña: It is a pity that we do not have the official advice of the EC. But we could also get advice from DG-Mare and DG-Environment.

About Resources

- DGabiña: we support the costs of the network activities. We try to find funding which is case by case. The newsletter can be the exception because it is not very expensive.
- HFarrugio: I expected the money to come from the EU, they want the network so they should pay it.
- MColl: It is unrealistic to expect participation from Southern Countries to pay their participation if there is no funding to cover their participation.
- DGabiña: We will have to go case by case and see how to fund the activities. For example, to organise course we team up with GFCM and FAO to pay participation from developing countries.
- GBayadas: what if we have a large amount of people participating in the network, we need to develop criteria on who participates in courses and activities, otherwise this is not clear.
- DGabiña: the criteria are based on the donors. In our case we only pay for participants from developing countries to the courses.
- JMBellido: for the individual participants we could put an annual fee. Maybe a symbolic one.
- DGabiña: this will be very complicated.
- PCury: we need to be structured to response to call in the future, if we are not ready then we will not be able to reply to the calls.

About Structure

- Network coordinator (NC) and the Steering committee (SC)
- Remove "countries" by institutions and individuals
- HFarrugio: Regional and intergovernmental organizations participation do not have to follow EMBASEAS but the other way around, should be EMBASEAS to follow the regional bodies.
- MBernal: there should be two way communications with the regional bodies. There should be a willing to communicate both ways in a constructive way.

About Decision-making

- Voting with individuals or institutions, how to vote?
- STaleb: normally we do not vote, we get agreement by consensus.
- DGabiña: consensus is the normal way of deciding things and it is highly recommended, but sometimes there is a need to use the voting system.
- Group: Remove the voting bit and add that if consensus is not reached the Steering committee will vote and decide on what to do.



About Decision of Network Coordination

- DGabiña: proposes Philippe Cury to be the coordinator of the network EMBASEAS
- PCury: I can be the NC for 6 months (interim coordination) but in 6 months I will be gone. It is very important for our work to be in strong position for future calls. I am also coordinating EuroMarine+ and it will be important to connect both networks.
- The group agrees that P. Cury will be the NC for 6 months.
- D.Gabiña: now we need to choose two representatives: Marina Panayotova for the Black Sea and Said Taleb for the Mediterranean Sea are suggested and accepted by the group.
- DGabiña: Do you agree to be EMBASEAS funders? Most of the group agrees.
- MBernal: When do you want the comments as regional bodies? You can have the comments of the secretariat or the comments of the GFCM.
- DGabiña: the temporal framework will be a month. DGabiña and JLeonart will change the text and will send the new document to the participants, give them a month for comments, and send the last version of the EMBASEAS to all the members asking for adhesion.
- MBernal: We can provide official GFCM comments by mid May.