

**MAMA WP7**  
**Guidelines for the organisation of National Awareness Meetings**

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**- Objectives of the Meetings**

The principal aim of the MAMA National Awareness Meetings is to promote the concept and benefits of operational ocean monitoring to a wide audience of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The emphasis will be on the benefits that an integrated and sustained system for routine monitoring will imply for applications such as offshore industry, coastal protection, fisheries, pollution control, recreation and safety at sea.

It should be underlined that MAMA is an EC funded project, serving the implementation of the Mediterranean policy of the European Union, and aiming at establishing a peaceful area of cooperation in the Mediterranean. MAMA is a first step of a process aiming at a basin scale cooperation to establish an ocean observing system within the framework of the GOOS-Global Ocean Observing System.

These meetings should also provide a direct consultation, to identify national needs for capacity building, infrastructures and local organisational frameworks. This will be an ideal occasion to bring to the forefront the imperative for a strong regional cooperation built on the basis of shared efforts, resources and equal benefits to all the riparian countries.

The objectives and achievements of the EC MAMA projects and of the Mediterranean Global Ocean Observing System (MedGOOS) will be presented to key representatives from public administration, potential users, national funding agencies, environmental authorities. The meetings will moreover target to initiate concrete linkages between the scientific community involved in preparing the basis of operational oceanography, and the policy community committed to secure a sustainable society. This should serve as catalyst to establish national ramifications in favour of GOOS, possibly through the creation of National GOOS Planning Committees, involving data and potential service providers, end-users and potential beneficiaries, including entities involved in policy formulation, environmental management and marine industry.

The meetings will moreover be accompanied by public awareness activities involving the media, along with the sensitisation of relevant ministries for governmental support.

The support of the EESD-Environment and Sustainable Development Programme of the European Commission needs to be always duly acknowledged.

More specifically, some important aspects that these meetings can target are:

- Inform and involve all the national stakeholders, to establish a dedicated national focus in favour of operational ocean forecasting, and formulate national plans for implementation.

- Provide a forum to shape up the approach of science to the public administrative machinery by addressing the needs of the national environmental and policy-making authorities, marine-related industries and marine service providers of the Mediterranean countries, using practical examples to show the advantages of decision-making mechanism and an environmental management process based on sound information and knowledge.
- Show how an ocean/coastal observing and forecasting system can address specific country needs concerning, for instance, maritime transport, safety at sea, tourism, monitoring obligations, public safety and health, improved maritime services.
- Highlight the importance of international cooperation, the support of the European Commission and shared efforts for an effective regional coverage of observations at an affordable and scientifically useful resolution.
- Highlight the supportive framework that MAMA aims to provide to enable obligations within regional legal frameworks and mandates (Barcelona Convention, Agenda Med 21), and demonstrate how countries can benefit from addressing their commitments to international marine-related conventions.

#### Who should be invited

- Ministry of Research and Education, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of transport, Ministry of Fisheries, other Ministries relevant for marine affairs.
- EC delegation in the country
- Governmental agencies, and authorities
- Leading marine scientists
- Representatives of the marine research management community
- Representatives of the marine industries and services sector
- Representatives of the national GOOS committee where applicable
- National MED POL coordinator where appropriate
- MAP/MED POL representative
- UNESCO/IOC National representative

#### Invited experts

It is recommended to have one invited speaker from the European Commission and invited experts from regional GOOS association in order to link the meeting to regional and global initiatives, and put up high-level content on the agenda that can attract a wider audience. Participation of other MAMA partners is encouraged to share experiences from neighbouring countries. It would also be useful to link the meeting with an informative session on the Framework Programme of the EU and the foresight for marine science and technology in Europe.

Potential experts that can be invited are:

- Expert from EC DG Research
- Expert from the MAMA consortium to present examples and applications or experiences
- Members of the MAMA Advisory Board

- Experts from EuroGOOS/MedGOOS/Black Sea GOOS/Africa GOOS
- I-GOOS
- Expert from national GOOS planning committee if present in the country,

The experts of the EC cover their own costs. Additional funds will have to be raised, or special arrangements made with the experts, in order to cover costs.

A list of potential speakers from international organisations will be made available by the MAMA co-ordinator

Suggested items for the Agenda (to be agreed with the MAMA co-ordinator)

- Concise presentations on
  - Operational ocean forecasting....what it means....why....etc.
  - The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) - vision, objectives and applications with specific examples
  - MedGOOS - What it is and what the aims are, short-term objectives and long-term goals, expected benefits for the Mediterranean
  - MAMA – the first MedGOOS project
    - Overview of MAMA, its philosophy, specific objectives and long-term goals
    - Brief description of the MAMA activities and deliverables
    - MAMA demonstration tools and products and their benefits
    - GMES and the contribution of MAMA
    - Forward look for MAMA; a review of MAMA -MIP and MAMA-Net to set up the initial observing system, build capacity, incorporate emerging technologies, design an effective sampling strategy for the permanent operational forecasting system in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.
- Keynote presentation on the benefits and potentialities for operational oceanography with specific case-studies of ongoing, planned or suggested applications focussing on national aspects.
- National GOOS planning committee
  - Overview of the aims of the committee
  - Examples of the structure of existing national GOOS committees
  - Proposals for members of the committee

To bring about the direct involvement of the participants, the meeting can be organized to include a) parallel Working Groups (reporting to the plenary), or b) short successive Round Table discussions. Themes to be developed in the WG/RT could include: "The contribution/implications of operational ocean forecasting for civil society", "Improving the national marine monitoring system through MAMA".

A list of items/issues to be discussed in each theme will support the conduct of the WG/RT.

The conclusions/recommendations of each WG/RT will be written down in a report detailing the problem in question, the strategy to achieve the targets and expected

benefits. An attempt should also be made, where necessary, to tackle the time frame needed to achieve the targets and to identify the responsible implementing agencies, the costs envisaged and sources of funding.

#### Organisation and conduction of the meeting

Where possible the aim should be to organise these meetings in close collaboration jointly with a Ministry, even possibly asking for hosting or holding under the auspices of a Ministry.

The MAMA participant will be responsible for organising the meetings. The organising committee would benefit from cooperation with the National GOOS Committee where this already exists, if the committee would ideally include representatives from key national stakeholders in marine affairs; this nucleus of members can serve to catalyse the establishment of a permanent committee for ocean monitoring and forecasting where this does not yet exist.

The National Awareness Meetings will be conducted during months 13 – 27 of the MAMA project (January 2003-March 2004).

The recommended duration of the meeting will be 1.5 to 2 days.

The language of the meeting will be chosen by the national organiser. Experts may deliver their presentations in English or French.

Proceedings and meeting results will be prepared for each national meeting and go to be delivered at the latest 2 months after the conclusion of the meeting.

#### Conference Material

General information material: MedGOOS brochures and MAMA flyers, detailed report on MedGOOS (by Aldo Drago), MAMA & GOOS (by Silvana Vallerga), EuroGOOS (by Hans Dahlin)

- Special short reports on themes addressing the need for ocean monitoring and highlighting the benefits of ocean forecasting in the region (by the MAM Secretariat).
- A vision for operational oceanography in the Mediterranean (by the MAM Advisory Board).
- National reports on MAMA/MEDGOOS and related national activities (by MAM focal points).
- MAP/MED POL information documents (by UNEP/MAP).
- Brochures of key national marine centres/organisations
- Information on the MAMA WWW.

- Information on the 6<sup>th</sup> EU Framework Programme for Research a Technological Development and other international programmes involving RT in ocean forecasting (provided by DG Research).
- The meeting Agenda.
- Speaker contributions.

Other: Conference folders and pens (to be provided by the MAMA Secretariat)