



# MedGOOS

## *Mediterranean Global Ocean Observing System*

Subject: Progress on the MAMA project

This is our second communication on the Mediterranean network to Assess and upgrade Monitoring and forecasting Activity in the region (MAMA). MAMA is a first step of a process aiming at a basin scale cooperation to establish an ocean observing system in the region within the framework of the GOOS-Global Ocean Observing System.

MAMA is an EC funded project, serving the implementation of the Mediterranean policy of the European Union aiming at establishing a peaceful area of cooperation in the Mediterranean. MAMA partners are 28 marine institutions representing all the Mediterranean countries. Three international organisations are also participating to MAMA: EuroGOOS, UNESCO/IOC and UNEP-MAP. The project is coordinated by the International Marine Centre (IMC, Italy) with the assistance of the IOI-Malta Operational Centre (MedGOOS Secretariat, Malta).

The kick-off meeting of MAMA was held in March 2002 at the UNESCO/IOC Headquarters in Paris. It brought together the members of the consortium to fine tune the implementation of this 3-year project, and detail the methodology and work schedules for each of its workpackages. The MAMA participants met for a two-day second meeting from 8-9<sup>th</sup> July at IMC in Oristano, Sardinia, to evaluate the work carried out in the first six months of the project.

The MAMA project is running smoothly, already undertaking some of its key activities. In the meantime MAMA has been requested by the EU to contribute to the initial phase of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES), a joint EU-ESA initiative to implement a European autonomous operational capacity for monitoring by 2008. The contribution from MAMA will include:

- (i) an inventory on existing marine monitoring activities in the Mediterranean;
- (ii) the design of an initial observing system for the coastal area
- (iii) reports on the present monitoring activities and on the limitation of data flow

Awareness on the benefits of ocean monitoring and feedback from stakeholders are important steps to build a participated system. MAMA attributes great importance to the element of awareness. The MAMA awareness campaign addressing governmental agencies and authorities, policy-makers, the marine scientific community, marine institutions, the service sector and the public at large will start early next year with National Awareness Meetings on MAMA conducted in all Mediterranean countries. The focus will be to promote the concepts and benefits of operational ocean monitoring such as for

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tourism, maritime transport, offshore industry, coastal protection, fisheries, pollution control, and safety at sea.

The objectives and achievements of the EC MAMA project, and of the Mediterranean Global ocean Observing System (MedGOOS) will be presented to key representatives from public administration, potential users, national funding agencies, and environmental agencies.

These meetings will provide a forum for direct consultation, to identify national needs for capacity building, for infrastructures and for local organisational frameworks. They will provide 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 participation of the scientific community working on the science base for operational oceanography, and of the policy community committed to secure a sustainable society, will serve as a catalyst to establish a targeted national support for GOOS. This will possibly involve also 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 dedicated discussions with relevant ministries to get governmental support.

More specifically these meetings will:

- Inform and involve all the national stakeholders to set the basis for national plans on the implementation of ocean forecasting;
- Shape up the approach of science to public administration addressing the needs of the national environmental and policy-making authorities, involving marine-related industries and marine service providers, and using test cases;
- Show how an ocean observing and forecasting system can address specific country needs such as maritime transport, safety at sea, tourism, monitoring obligations, public safety and health, improved marine services;
- Highlight the importance of international cooperation for an effective regional coverage of observations and accurate forecasts;
- Demonstrate how the country can benefit from the institutional network established by the EC project MAMA to address the obligations related to international conventions such as the Barcelona Convention and Agenda Med 21.

To produce comparable results the general agenda of the National Awareness Meetings will be the same in different countries, while the specific content of each meeting will reflect the individual country requirements. For more information about the National

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Awareness Meetings as well as any other aspect of the MAMA project, please contact the MAMA responsible partner in your country. The list of contacts is in annex to this letter.

MAMA is already planning for the future, MAMA-MIP is a large integrated project for ocean monitoring that will be submitted to the EC Framework Programme 6, in 2003.

Your contribution to the awareness campaign is essential to maximise MAMA results and help your country to benefit from the participation in the establishment of the Mediterranean basin wide monitoring system.

Sincerely,

Silvana Vallerga  
MAMA coordinator  
MedGOOS Chair

Aldo Drago  
MAMA Assistant Coordinator  
MedGOOS Executive Secretary

General information on the MAMA project can be found on the MAMA website on the current address: [www.ifremer.fr/mama/](http://www.ifremer.fr/mama/)

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