

MedGOOS Secretariat
Report for December 2000 – February 2001

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Brief on activities carried out by the MedGOOS Secretariat:

The signing of an Activity-Financing Contract (No. SC-298-079-0) between IOC and the MedGOOS Secretariat (located within IOI-Malta Operational Centre at the University of Malta) in November 2000, provided financial support for the Secretariat's activities for a period of one year starting on 1st December 2000.

- **Employment of Assistant**

A full-time assistant was employed for a period of one year starting from 1st December 2000 for administration duties, general assistance and conduction of activities related to MedGOOS.

- **MAMA Proposal**

The main work in this 3 month period concerned the re-submission of a proposal to the Vth Framework Programme entitled “**M**editerranean network to **A**ssess and upgrade **M**onitoring and forecasting **A**ctivity in the region (**MAMA**)”. This proposal aims to provide a framework for the concerted basin-wide effort to establish a strong and common research infrastructure necessary for the setting up of a Global Ocean Observing System in the Mediterranean (MedGOOS).

The activities planned in this proposal give a high priority to networking amongst marine institutions in order to promote data exchange, enhance regional interaction and co-operation, and make for effective use of the collective resources of the many coastal nations. Operational ocean monitoring and forecasting is a valuable tool for a better management of the marine environment as it can serve to protect the marine ecosystem and minimise the impacts of climate change and human use of resources thus embracing the scope of sustainable development.

The aims of MAMA are centred on the trans-national pooling of scientific and technological resources through the sharing of experiences and the transfer of expertise, to bring capacities at comparable levels, and provide an integrated effort towards the planning and design of the initial ocean observing and forecasting system in the Mediterranean. The focus will be on the sustainable use of the coastal zone. MAMA will also interact with end-users and work in the whole basin to raise awareness on the benefits of ocean forecasting with dissemination of results and products.

The Secretariat had an important role in securing the participation of all Mediterranean countries in MAMA including newcomers to such regional research initiatives like the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Palestinian Authority, Algeria, Albania, Syria, Lebanon and others. Through MAMA, the Secretariat is expected to effectively enhance its prestigious role as a hub for regional co-operation in marine research in the Mediterranean.

The Secretariat was mainly responsible for the Anonymous part of the revised MAMA, for soliciting technical inputs which fitted a new structure of work packages and for keeping all partners updated as the proposal took shape. The proposal was subsequently submitted in mid-February.

- **Mediterranean Directory of marine scientists and professionals – MeDir**

The MedGOOS Secretariat embarked on the task to establish a web-based directory entitled MeDir. This directory will be structured upon the Global Directory of Marine (and Freshwater) Professionals, GLODIR and will be a free and searchable database for the benefit of the scientific community of the Mediterranean. MeDir will constitute a subset of GLODIR and will provide an enhancement to it by reaching out to as many individuals and institutions as possible and increasing the number of Mediterranean entries. MeDir is envisaged to be the first phase of a database, of much wider scope, to be established in the near future.

A plan of action for the implementation of MeDir was drawn up. The initial steps consisted in the review of the current Mediterranean entries in GLODIR. The Secretariat liaised with IOC staff to secure a streamlined compatibility with GLODIR. The compilation of a regional contact list was also initiated.
